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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,224	05/24/2001	Donald Steiner	2101950-991110	5883
7590	01/13/2004		EXAMINER	CHEN, TE Y
ANDRE M GIBBS BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2171	3
			DATE MAILED: 01/13/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/866,224	Applicant(s) Donald Steiner et al.
Examiner Susan Chen	Art Unit 2171



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 24, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims 1-37 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are accepted or objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: approved disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-37 are presented for examination.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-5 , 11-16 and 26-31, drawn to database query and searching processing, classified in class 707, subclass 3.
 - II. Claims 6-10, 17-23 and 32-37, drawn to computer network distributed data processing, classified in class 709, subclass 201.
 - III. Claims 24-25, drawn to computer network resource allocation, classified in class 709, subclass 226.
3. The inventions I, II and III are related as sub-combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub-combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

In the instant case, invention I (database query and searching processing) has separate utility such as processing query and searching for results from a virtual database system. Invention I I (computer network distributed data processing) has separate utility such as transferring data in a

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network client/server environment. Invention III (computer network resource allocation) has separate utility such as finding and allocating resources from a network system.

4. Because these inventions are distinct and search groups I, II and III are not required to be simultaneous, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Examiner has conducted a telephone interview with the Applicant's attorney -- Andre M. Gibbs on Jan 7, 2004. During the telephone conversation, the Applicant's attorney is requested to make an oral election among the Group I, or II or III with/without traversal. In response to the request, the Applicant's attorney indicates that he might need to get a restriction statement before giving the final election, as such, the office action is listed as above.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

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7. Applicant is reminded that the reply to this restriction election to be completed must include an election of the invention to be examined within one month from the mailing date of this office action, even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahić, can be reached at (703) 308-1436. The fax phone number for this group is: (703) 872-9306.

10. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Susan Chen



Jan. 7, 2004

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